

Zerma



14-day Prayer Guide For Volunteers

welcome

Thank you for your willingness and obedience in coming to West Africa to work with the Zerma people. The Zerma team is praying for you even now as you are preparing to come and serve.

This prayer guide is designed to help you begin your journey of sharing Christ with Zerma People of West Africa. It will communicate practical things about working among the Zerma, while seeking to prepare your heart as well. Each day has a verse that goes along with the lesson or story. Spend time reading and meditating on each verse. Then, read the section and pray for the Zerma people. The last section of each day deals with your heart. In order to become like Christ, we must take up our cross and follow Him. When you choose to "put off" sin and "put on" holiness your heart becomes more Christ-like. We are praying for you that you will grow in your knowledge of the Zerma people, and most importantly, grow in your relationship with the Lord.

See you in 2 weeks!

Day 1:

Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the Zerma people for your visit.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on the cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

HUMILITY

As you begin these two weeks of prayer before coming to West Africa, it is important to know that missions involves humbling yourself before the Lord. Although we may have ideas and plans about how to minister to the Zerma, it's ultimately God who will accomplish *His* plan in and through us as we seek to serve Him. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus calls us to “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” This is God’s plan—that the nations may know Him. Spend this day in prayer asking God to give you His heart for the Zerma people and to give you a love for them as you seek to be a part of His plan for these precious people.

*Heavenly Father,
Thank You for choosing to use me in Your plan to reach the Zerma people. Show me the ways I need to humble myself so that I may become more like Christ. I ask that You would conform my heart to Yours for the Zerma. Give me Your overwhelming love for them. Help me to know how to pray between now and when I get to West Africa. I praise you for what You are going to do in me and in the Zerma people. Amen.*

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *pride* (Proverbs 16:18)

&

PUT ON: *humility* (James 4:6)

Day 2:

Pray that the Zerma people would come to understand that Jesus is not just a prophet, but the Son of God.

“Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed.

“How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked. Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Matthew 21:18-22 (NIV)

BELIEVE

Jesus made it clear that we should pray believing, and whatever we ask will be given to us. However, we must pray according to God’s will. Jesus modeled this when He prayed to the Father on the Mount of Olives, saying, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42 NIV). Remember that God has promised to answer your prayers, so “...by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Phil. 4:6 NIV). Therefore, pray, *believing* that God will answer according to His will. Today, ask the Lord to show you His will for the Zerma people. Then pray, believing that great things will happen! Continue to seek Him about your place in God’s will for leading the Zerma to Christ.

Savior,

Thank You for what you are already doing among the Zerma people. Thank You that Your will is for them to know you. I pray that You would show me how you might use me to share with the Zerma. Teach me to walk in Your ways and believe Your promises. I'm excited, already, to see what You are going to do. I love You, Lord. Amen.

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *complacency* (James 4:17)

&

PUT ON: *diligence* (Colossians 3:23)

Day 3:

Pray that God would reveal to the Zerma people that He is what they are looking for. Pray that they would begin to desire something deeper than Muslim tradition.

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Matthew 10:34-39 (NIV)

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Before going and while on mission, we must always be willing to “take up our cross” daily and follow Jesus. What does this mean? Well, part of it is for us to be willing to put aside our own desires, whatever they may be, and choose to walk through things that might be hard for the sake of the gospel. West Africa is not an “easy” place to be. There can be many difficulties as you seek to do the things God has called you to do. Today, ask the Lord to reveal your heart to you and see if you are truly willing to give up your worldly ambitions, take up your cross, and follow Him.

*Heavenly Father,
Thank You for sending Your Son to die in my place.
Thank You for leaving Your comfort zone to endure hardships on this earth. Lord, I pray that You would help me to surrender all my desires and ambitions as I go to share Your love with the Zerma people. I praise You, Lord for what You will show me. Reveal my heart to see if there is any wicked way in me. You are good. I’m excited to take up my cross daily, starting today, and follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *selfishness* (Philippians 2:3)

&

PUT ON: *death to self* (John 12:24)

Day 4:

Pray that the Zerma people would receive Jesus, the “cadeau” (gift) that is offered to them.

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:1-10 (NIV)

THE GIFT

“During my first visit to an African village, we walked around visiting people. As we were walking, I kept hearing people call out, ‘Cadeau! Cadeau! Cadeau!’ I asked my friend, a missionary, what that word meant and she replied, ‘It means ‘gift,’ they want a gift from us.’ To my amazement, every time they would ask for a gift, she would tell them that she did not come to give them money, but the gift of Jesus. This grabbed my heart-- she was right—we had come to bring them Jesus, the free gift of God! Soon after, I myself began to reply ‘Jesus’ when they asked for a gift. After this reply usually came the question, ‘Jesus?, What about Jesus?,’ or, ‘Jesus? I don’t know anything about Jesus.’ What a prompt to share the gospel!”

You may meet Zerma people, especially children, who will ask for a “cadeau.” Don’t get frustrated--try to turn these times into opportunities to share the gospel. As you pray today, ask the Lord to reveal His truth to the Zerma people. Pray that they would desire the gift of Jesus that is offered to them—the gift that will give them life.

Abba Father,

Thank You for Your free gift of eternal life that is offered to all. I praise You, Lord that You have brought me salvation and I will one day be with You in Heaven. God, I pray that You would bring many of the Zerma people to Yourself. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *doubt* (James 1:6)

&

PUT ON: *faith* (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Day 5:

Pray that the Zerma people would receive God's Word as truth when they hear it. Ask the Lord to remove the blinders from their eyes so they may see the truth.

“So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give Me a drink?” ... The Samaritan woman said to Him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For the Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?” Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:5-14 (NIV)

LIVING WATER

“In West Africa, it's every day life to go to a well to draw water. Therefore, as we would walk around inviting people to come to hear our nighttime Bible story, we would find them drawing water from the wells. This was one of my favorite sights because I was constantly reminded of Jesus and the woman at the well. I soon began to stop when I saw them, in order to tell the story about Jesus and, from there, share about why the water was “living.” What a way to relate to the people while sharing Jesus! Spend today asking God to reveal Himself to those who have already heard of this living water. Pray that God would continually draw them to Himself. Also, continue to pray for the believers in Niger, that they would have the strength to be bold for the gospel. Lastly, ask the Lord to show you ways to share the gospel while you are among the Zerma.”

Dear God,

Thank You for Your loving-kindness. I believe that You sent your son to die for the Zerma. I pray that You would remind the ones who have heard Your truth about Your Son, Jesus. Give them a desire to ask the questions about how to accept Jesus as their Savior. I pray that You would teach me a good way to share my testimony with them. I praise You, for You are good. In Jesus' name, Amen.

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *bad motives* (1Samuel 16:7)

&

PUT ON: *meditation on God* (Joshua 1:8)

Day 6:

Pray for the Zerma, that they may know Jesus as God's Son, and accept Him as their Savior.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:1-6 (NIV)

THE JESUS ROAD

“As we went prayer walking, people would surround us each time we stopped to pray. By the time we finished praying, a crowd would be pressing in on us from all sides. They wanted to know why we were there, so the missionary would tell them we had come to pray for them and share with them “The Jesus Road.” Many of these people had heard of Jesus. However, they only knew of Him as a prophet, not God's Son. Therefore, we would always share with them John 14:6. We did this so they would know that Jesus claimed to be the only way to God, which contradicts what they believe Him to be—only a prophet, like Muhammad. Jesus being God's Son is a major barrier to the Zerma in understanding who Jesus truly is. Today, pray for the Zerma people who, if they know about Jesus, only know Him to be a prophet and not God's Son. Pray that they may know Him for who He truly is. Also, remember to pray for the missionaries, that God would continue to open doors so they may share *The Jesus Road*.”

Lord,

Thank You for showing me that Jesus is Your Son and I can only come to You through Him. I pray for the Zerma, that they may know Your Son for who He truly is. Bring them to know you, Oh God. I also pray that the missionaries may be able to communicate “The Jesus Road” effectively. In Jesus' name, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, I pray. Amen

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *bitterness* (Hebrews 12:15)

&

PUT ON: *a tender heart* (Colossians 3:12)

Day 7:

Pray that the Zerma, upon hearing the gospel, would accept the gift which is offered to them.

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:15-19 (NIV)

LOSTNESS

"As I find myself in different Zerma villages, there is at least one thing that remains the same in every one—over 99% of the people I see are lost. Jesus died for them, the gift is available, they just need someone to spend time with them and share what that gift is. One of my teammates said today, 'What breaks my heart is when I say, "Hi" to a kid and they look behind them, wondering who I'm talking to. It just makes me what to pick them up and say, "Yes, I'm talking to you, you are more important to me right now than anything else.'" May the Zerma know they are important to the Father, who loved them so much He sent His Son to die for them. As you pray today, remember that the majority of the Zerma are lost. Pray specifically that God will give them a clear understanding of Himself. Ask the Lord to send more people to share the gift of Jesus with these who have never heard."

Father,

Thank You for Your gift, the gift of Jesus. Lord, prepare me to love on the Zerma people so they may know how much You love them. I pray that You would give them a clear understanding of Your Word and truth. Help those who are serving in West Africa to love on the people and be bold for the gospel. May Your will be done. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *disobedience* (1Samuel 12:15)

&

PUT ON: *obedience* (Hebrews 5:9)

Day 8:

Pray for the Zerma believers, that God would give them boldness.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father as well.”

John 15:18-23 (NIV)

BOLDNESS

After arriving in Kollo (a village outside the capital city), I met a young woman who had recently become a believer. Her husband had been gone for seven months and had not called her since he left. During his absence, the missionaries shared Christ with her, and she became a believer. Soon after meeting her, I learned that her husband called and yelled at her for becoming a Christian. Not only this, but her mother continues to chastise her because of her faith and her friends treat her differently. However, she remains strong, though she is risking everything she has in this world. There are few Christians among the Zerma, and many of those who have chosen to believe suffer for the name of Christ. Spend time today praying for Zerma believers. Ask the Lord to give them boldness to share Christ with their unbelieving family and friends, no matter what the cost. Also, pray that our Heavenly Father would comfort them as they endure hardships as a result of their faith.

*Lord Most High,
Thank You for sending Your Son to suffer for us. The world hated Him, but because of Your love, He died for me. I pray for the Zerma believers as they suffer for the name of Christ. Give them boldness as they live for You and share their faith with their family and friends. Lord, I ask that You would comfort them as they endure trials. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.*

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *stubbornness* (Psalm 81:11-12)

&

PUT ON: *submission* (Romans 6:13)

Day 9:

Pray that the schemes of Satan would be crushed.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit...”

Ephesians 6:10-18a (NIV)

STAND FIRM

When you are in God’s will, doing the things that please him, Satan does not like it. The Word says that Satan comes to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10). Mission trips are one of the prime times of attack from Satan. He wants to destroy what God is doing. Satan attacks in numerous ways, so we must build a foundation beforehand so that we may be able to stand against him. We can start by memorizing scripture and knowing our identity in Christ. “Born-again believers are identified over two hundred times as holy ones, righteous ones or saints. You are not a forgiven sinner but a redeemed saint” (Anderson, *beta*, pg.19). Remember that Jesus has authority over Satan, the battle is already won (Col. 2:15). Therefore, put on the armor of God and stand firm against the schemes of Satan. Pray, today, that God would prepare you to fight the battle that is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of darkness.

*Heavenly Father,
Thank You for covering me with the blood of Jesus and redeeming me so I may be called a saint. I pray You would prepare me to fight the battle that is not against flesh and blood. Lord, make Satan and his schemes against the Zerma fall to the ground. I pray that You would open the eyes of the Zerma people so they may know who You are and choose to follow You.*

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *ungratefulness* (Romans 1:21)

&

PUT ON: *thankfulness* (Ephesians 5:20)

Day 10:

Pray that God would teach you to be flexible as you seek to serve among the Zerma.

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

FLEXIBILITY

"One day, one of the missionaries left Niamey to travel to another town. Four hours later, he called his wife to tell her that the town was further than he thought, but he was coming home. On his way home, his truck broke down and he ended up sitting on the side of the road with his two-year-old son. They were finally able to get a ride on a bush taxi. The next day he and another missionary drove back to retrieve the truck. Unable to repair it, they began towing it back to town. It was dark when they came to a place on the road where giraffes happened to be crossing. They slowed down to wait for them to cross, but an oncoming car failed to see them. It hit a giraffe and grazed the car being towed, causing an even longer delay while they waited for the police. No one was hurt, but all of this to say that unexpected events are to be expected on the mission field. One of my professors always says, 'The main word for mission work is: flexibility.' Today, ask the Lord to prepare you to be flexible in whatever situations may arise."

God,

Thank You for Your character. I desire to be holy as You are holy. I pray You would remind me to be flexible when I find myself in unexpected or difficult situations. Give me strength to persevere! I pray for the missionaries as they endure these "hang-ups," remind them that You will never leave them nor forsake them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *complaining* (Jude 15-16)

&

PUT ON: *contentment* (Hebrews 13:5)

Day 11:

Pray that God would reveal Himself to those among the Zerma who are afraid of evil spirits.

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

1 Peter 5:6-10 (NIV)

FEAR

Fear and anxiety are tools that Satan uses to discourage us. Whether it is fear of flying, fear of disease, fear of eating or drinking something harmful, or fear of evil spirits, Satan can use these fears to paralyze us. In Niger you may find yourself outside your comfort zone. You will be confronted with a different language and culture and living conditions than what you’re used to. These things, plus more, seem to sometimes “grip” people before they come or while they’re here. Satan is real, his attacks are real, and he really does seek to kill, steal, and destroy. However, God’s Word tells us to “...resist him, standing firm in your faith” (1 Peter 5:9). As you may be experiencing some anxiety about coming to Africa, or if you do when you get here, remember the words of our Father: “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1) Write these on your heart, so you may be ready to fight the enemy with the truth.

Abba Father,

I praise You for triumphing over Satan. You have already won the battle! Lord, help me to believe Your truth and to not fear the things of this world. Help me to rebuke Satan as he places thoughts of fear in my mind. Thank You, Lord. I love You and trust You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *fear* (2 Timothy 1:7)

&

PUT ON: *trust in God* (Proverbs 3:5)

Day 12:

Pray that God would raise up Zerma pastors who will start churches in their towns and villages.

“He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. The Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:3-11 (NIV)

“FOLLOW ME”

Not long ago, an imam (a Muslim religious leader who teaches in the mosques) had a vision of Jesus saying, “Follow Me.” So, he said, “Okay, Lord.” He left Niger and went to Nigeria to study the Bible. He studied for two years in Nigeria and for another year back in Niger. After his studies he began to look for a certain church planter he’d heard about. Meanwhile, an imam from a nearby village began seeking this same church-planter. When he found him, he said, “I’ve been looking for you. The people in my village will not leave me alone about a church being started in their area. Can you help?” About that time, the church-planter met this former Muslim and heard about his desire to evangelize and start new churches. The church planter sent him to the village that wanted a church. It turned out to be perfect because the man already lived close to the village. When the man gave his first message, 113 people came to know the Lord! God has a plan for His people! Pray, today for this man and these people who have become believers! Pray that they would seek the Lord, encourage each other, and share with everyone around!

Dear God,

Thank You for revealing Your truth to the Zerma! Please continue to work in this village, as people seek to live according to Your word! Give them strength and boldness in their new faith. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *timidity* (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

&

PUT ON: *boldness* (Ephesians 6:19)

Day 13:

Pray for the Zerma believers and those who will become believers. Pray they will have faith to follow Christ, no matter the sacrifice.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted: but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

John 21:15-19 (NIV)

FAITH AND SACRIFICE

Jesus said the above words to Peter "signifying by what death he would glorify God" (v. 19). Peter was going to die because of his faith, this was God's plan and Jesus knew this. However, after speaking these words to Peter, He said, "Follow Me." Following Christ requires faith and sacrifice. Today, pray for two things: 1) that God would give the Zerma believers a level of faith that allows them to understand sacrificing for the sake of Christ and, thus, choose to sacrifice for Christ, 2) that God would give you a level of faith that will allow you to be able to sacrifice for the sake of Christ. Always remember: God is good.

*Abba Father,
Thank You for being good. Thank You for calling me out to do Your will. Thank You for the Zerma believers. God, I pray You would give them faith to sacrifice for You. I ask, too, that You would grant me the faith to be able to sacrifice in order to do Your will. I love You Lord. In Jesus name I ask these things, Amen.*

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *gossip* (1 Timothy 5:13)

&

PUT ON: *speaking praise* (Ephesians 4:29)

Day 14:

Pray that Zerma believers would be lights to those who are living in darkness.

“No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you.”

Luke 11:33-36 (NIV)

LIGHT

“One Sunday morning, I met with some Zerma believers for church at a place in the city. As I was worshiping, I noticed that the door to the compound where the service was held had been left open. I began watching from the inside as people walked by. Each time I looked, someone had stopped at the doorway to see what was going on inside. During the entire service, there was always someone watching. It was like they knew everyone inside was different, and they were drawn to that. Whether they know it or not, each person is looking for Jesus. The people at that service had Jesus, and joy filled that place. Therefore, the ones on the outside noticed that joy and watched.” Spend today praying for those who stand and watch from the outside. Ask God to draw them to Himself. Also, pray for the Zerma believers. Pray for God to teach them how to be “lights” to the lost ones that surround them.

*Dear God,
Thank You for the churches that have begun among the Zerma. Lord, I ask that You compel these believers to become great lights in the midst of their people. For those who continue to remain outside the fold, I ask that you draw them to Yourself. Give them a curiosity and a boldness to come into your presence, the Light of the world. Amen*

In order that I may become more like Christ, I choose to:

PUT OFF: *lack of rejoicing* (Philippians 4:4)

&

PUT ON: *rejoicing* (I Thessalonians 5:16)